



PRESS RELEASE

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Warm Springs Dam Inspections to Temporarily Lower Flows in Dry Creek, Russian River

(Santa Rosa, CA) — Starting September 22 flows in both Dry Creek and the lower Russian River will be reduced for four days in order to complete an inspection of Warm Springs Dam and perform a habitat assessment of Dry Creek. The reduction of flows is required to complete a five-year periodic inspection conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the dam's outlet tunnel and emergency water supply line. The Sonoma County Water Agency will also be conducting a habitat assessment of Dry Creek downstream of the dam.

"We are working with the Corps to inform the public about this work being done and its impact on flows in Dry Creek and the Russian River," said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer of operations. "The lower flows will not impact our ability to deliver water to 600,000 people in our service area."

"Our inspection will ensure the dam is safe, sound and fully operational," said Mike Dillabough, Corps division chief of operations and readiness. "We plan a detailed analysis of the structure and a review of all safety procedures."

During the inspection period, releases to Dry Creek will be reduced to approximately 40 cubic feet per second (cfs). In September, flows in Dry Creek generally range between 105 and 120 cfs, and 125 to 150 cfs in the lower Russian River at the Hacienda Bridge. Flows will likely drop to approximately 75 cfs in the lower Russian River during the inspection timeframe. Immediately following the completion of the inspection, normal flow releases will be restored.

"We will do our best to reduce pumping near the Russian River to help mitigate the lower flows," said Jeane. "It is in everyone's best interest to protect our water supply facilities as well as wildlife habitat and recreation, especially during this dry year."

Additional releases from Lake Mendocino will not be made due to the lake's already low storage levels. Projections indicate that with ongoing conservation efforts throughout the Agency's service area Lake Mendocino will have enough water to release for the arrival of the threatened Chinook salmon later this month.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.